

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE

Rural District Council of Buckingham.

1919.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

STEEPLE CLAYDON,

3rd April, 1920.

To the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my twenty-second Annual Report.

During the year 1919 I have attended 15 Council meetings and 11 Committee meetings.

At the Census of 1911 the District contained a population of 8,322, being an increase of 198 since the Census of 1901. There were 2,084 inhabited houses, having an average number of 3.993 persons per house. The Registrar General estimates the population for the year 1919 under two heads: (1) The death-rate population, which excludes all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad, and is estimated at 7,684. (2) The birth-rate population, which includes all the elements of the population contributing to the birth-rate. It consists therefore of the death-rate or civilian population plus all non-civilians enlisting from this country whether serving at home or abroad. This non-civilian element has been distributed over all the districts in the country in proportion to their estimated civilian population. The birth-rate population is estimated at 8,004.

The Rural District of Buckingham consists of 33 parishes, comprising an area of 54,696 acres (85 square miles), exclusive of the area covered with water, which amounts to 197 acres. It is an undulating, well-wooded country, with no hills of any considerable height. Grassland (principally permanent pasture) largely predominates, and consequently the amount of arable land is comparatively small, the principal crops being wheat and beans. During the war a good deal of land has been ploughed up for corn. The River Ouse flows through the District from Westbury, where it enters it, to Beachampton, where it leaves it, and it is joined by a considerable tributary at Thornborough. The River Ray, a small tributary of the Cherwell and through it of the Thames, flows through Edgcott and Marsh Gibbon.

*Number of
Meetings
attended.*

Population.

*Area of District
and Physical
Characters*

Some brickmaking is carried on in the District (there are large brickworks at Calvert), but otherwise it is a purely agricultural District, sending a large quantity of milk to London.

*Geological
characters.*

The geological features of the District are of a varied character. The formation is that known as the Middle and Lower Oolite. Belonging to the latter is the Great Oolite, which is a soft and marly limestone, met with at Shalstone, Stowe, and Thornborough. Another member of the Lower Oolite is the Cornbrash, a rubbly limestone of a blue colour which becomes yellow on exposure to air owing to the oxidation of the iron present. This member of the series is found at Akeley, Beachampton, Maids Moreton, Marsh Gibbon, Thornborough, and Tingewick. The Middle Oolite is principally represented in the District by the Oxford clay, a bluish clay, weathering yellow on the surface; it is about 500 feet thick. Sand and gravel drifts are of frequent occurrence as well as large masses of clay full of pebbles. These deposits are relics of the glacial period, and were either dropped by melting icebergs or deposited as "moraines" at the end of a great glacier. The river gravels of the Ouse are of large extent and abound in Oolite fossils, especially "belemnites," which the inhabitants used to grind up and take as a cure for rheumatism. During the year 1911 borings for coal were made at Calvert Brickworks, with some success, to the depth of about 1,000 ft. Seams of coal of 12in. and 18in. in thickness have been found, but the war stopped further developments. A discharge of natural gas still continues from the boring and can be set light to.

The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and as a consequence they lead an outdoor life, which has naturally a good influence on public health.

Birth-rate.

The number of births registered during the year 1919 was 115 (54 boys and 61 girls), equal to an annual birth-rate of 14.4 per 1,000 living, compared with 14.7 for 1918. In the year 1910 the birth-rate for this district was 24.9. The rate for England and Wales for 1919 was 18.5. Four boys and seven girls were illegitimate.

Death-rate.

The number of deaths registered during 1919 was 84 (43 males and 41 females), equal to an annual death-rate of 10.9 per 1,000 living, compared with 17.4 for the year 1918. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1919 was 13.8.

*Infantile
Mortality.*

The Infantile Mortality for 1919 was 95, compared with 54 for the year 1918. The rate for 1919 for England and Wales was 89. There were no deaths amongst illegitimate infants under 12 months old.

There is no Hospital in this district, but the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, and the Northampton Hospital are all largely availed of, as well as the Nursing Home in Buckingham Town.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the past year amounted to 26.92 inches, which is about the average for the last 30 years. In 1918 the rainfall was 25.86 inches.

The number of rainy days in 1919 was 165, compared with 173 in 1918. December had 24 rainy days, while May had only 4. The wettest month was December, while the driest was May. Snow fell on 10 days.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The water supplies of the district are on the whole satisfactory, but there is no Public Waterworks Company and no scheme for supplying more than a single village. Perhaps it will be well to give a list of the several villages or parishes in the district and their means of water supply. Private wells are a source of supply in all the villages, and the public supplies are as follows:—

ADSTOCK : One public pump.

AKELEY : One public pump and one public tap ; gravitation supply.

BARTON HARTSHORN : One public tap ; gravitation supply.

CHARNDON AND CALVERT : Public supply by gravitation and standpipes ; water raised to service reservoir at Charndon by means of windmill.

CHETWODE : One public fountain ; gravitation supply.

EDGCOTT : Public supply by gravitation and standpipes.

LILLINGSTONE LOVELL : Public fountain ; gravitation supply.

MAIDS MORETON : Four public pumps.

MARSH GIBBON : Two public pumps and a gravitation supply with standpipes for part of village.

MIDDLE CLAYDON : One public tap at Verney Junction ; gravitation supply.

PADBURY : Public supply by gravitation and standpipes.

POUNDON : Public supply by gravitation and standpipes.

PRESTON BISSETT : One public pump.

SHALSTONE: One public tap and one fountain, both supplied by gravitation.

STEEPLE CLAYDON: Public supply by gravitation and standpipes to lower end of village, and one public pump.

THORNBOROUGH: Two public pumps.

TINGEWICK: Four public pumps.

TURWESTON: Public supply by gravitation and standpipe.

TWYFORD: Public supply by gravitation and standpipes.

WATER STRATFORD: Public supply by gravitation and standpipes.

WESTBURY: Public supply by gravitation and standpipes. A windmill is used to pump water into service reservoir.

Twyford and Charndon are charged a special water rate to pay off money borrowed.

The villages or parishes of Addington, Beachampton, Biddlesden, Foscott, Hillesden, Leckhampstead, Lillingstone Dayrell, Radclive-cum-Chackmore, Stowe, and Thornton are dependent for their water supplies on private wells.

Rivers and Streams.

At Edgcott and Marsh Gibbon sewage treatment is undertaken to meet the requirements of the Thames Conservancy, as a small river, the River Ray, which is a tributary of the Thames, flows through these parishes. There are also tanks and filters for dealing with sewage in the parishes of Maids Moreton, Preston Bissett, Steeple Claydon, Thornborough, Water Stratford, and Westbury.

Drainage and Sewage.

The following villages have a service of sewers with socketted pipes, the joints of which are set in cement, and those laid in recent years have been smoke tested:—Akeley, Charndon, Edgcott, Leckhampstead, Maids Moreton, Middle Claydon, Poundon, Radclive-cum-Chackmore, Steeple Claydon, Thornborough, Turweston, Twyford, Water Stratford, and Westbury.

The following villages are served by sewers and sewer ditches:—Adstock and Preston Bissett. Barton Hartshorne, Hillesden, Padbury, and Stowe-cum-Dadford have sewer ditches.

Beachampton and Shalstone have sewer brooks which are tributaries of the Great Ouse, and Tingewick has a culvert sewer which is insufficient for carrying off the sewage of the village.

The parishes of Addington, Biddlesden, Chetwode, Lullingstone Lovell, Lillingstone Dayrell, and Thornton do not possess any sewers or system of drainage. In these parishes the houses are few and far between, and individual houses have their cesspools into which the sewage flows. They are emptied at intervals.

*Closet
Accommodation.*

There are comparatively few water closets in this district. The great majority are earth closets of the pail type, but there are still a few vault closets in existence.

Scavenging.

There are no existing arrangements for public scavenging. The occupiers empty their pail closets by burying the contents in their gardens, and there are practically always sufficient facilities for so doing. Cesspools and privy vaults are emptied by the occupiers at regular intervals. Movable ashbins are very few in number.

*Sanitary
Inspection of
District.*

The tabular statement from the Inspector of Nuisances appears as usual at the end of my report. He is now engaged in making an exhaustive report of the villages of the district, and these reports have already been printed as regards the villages of Maids Moreton, Preston Bissett, and Tingewick, copies of which are enclosed.

*Premises, etc.
which can be
controlled by
Bye-laws, etc.*

There are no offensive trades carried on in this district, and no underground sleeping rooms.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools in the district is good, and water supplies are satisfactory.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The district is largely engaged in the business of sending milk to London, and this Council has always been ready to do what it could in safeguarding the supply. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders of 1885 and 1889 have been adopted for some years. The cowsheds of the district have been wonderfully improved and are kept under constant supervision. They are limewashed twice a year. This Council sanctions the calling in of a Veterinary Surgeon in case of any suspicious case of Tuberculosis amongst milking cows. With regard to the Milk and Cream Regulations of 1912 and 1917, this Council is not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

As regards the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order 1918, this Council has taken no action, as such does not seem to be needed in this district. As Medical Officer of Health, I have had no applications made to me for milk, and in my private practice I have seen no cases which required help in the provision of milk for either the mother or child. There are no manufactories of foods in the district. The bakehouses and slaughter-houses are regularly inspected, and they are kept clean and in sanitary condition to meet the requirements of the Inspector of Nuisances. There is no public abattoir in the district and no carcasses or parts of carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifiable infectious diseases occurred during 1919 in this district:—Scarlet Fever, 11; Diphtheria, 5; Erysipelas, 3; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1; Varicella, 1; Pneumonia, 4; Malaria, 6; Measles, 8; and German Measles, 6. No cases of Enteric Fever, Small-pox, Puerperal Fever, Dysentery, or Trench Fever were notified, nor were any cases of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Polyomyelitis, or Eucephalitis Lethargica.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis have only been needed in the cases of Diphtheria, and they have been used on each occasion to confirm the diagnosis. Diphtheria anti-toxin has been used in all cases of that disease. There have been no return cases of Scarlet Fever or carrier cases.

At present there is no Isolation Hospital in the district, but the site for one has been purchased for some years, and steps are being taken for the erection of a hospital during the coming year. Houses in which infectious cases have occurred have been carefully disinfected when the case is convalescent and free from infection. Houses are also disinfected after cancer and tuberculosis cases.

On the outbreak of any infectious or epidemic form of disease in the Schools, notice is sent by the head-teacher to the Medical Officer of Health; also in cases of Ringworm, Scabies, Impetigo, &c. There was a comparatively slight epidemic of Influenza in the spring of 1919, and during the year 5 deaths occurred from this

disease (3 male and 2 female), compared with 40 deaths in 1918 (14 male and 26 female). Last year I sent a short report on Influenza to the Local Government Board at their request. Leaflets have been circulated in the district with advice as to precautions which ought to be taken to prevent an attack and how to act when attacked by this disease.

The requirements as to notification of Tuberculosis are well observed by the practitioners in this district, and the notifications are promptly sent in; also in cases of death from tuberculosis (and cancer) the Registrar immediately sends me notice of the death so that the premises may be disinfected without delay. In case of any suspicious case of Tuberculosis arising amongst milking cows a Veterinary Surgeon is called in, and he applies the Tuberculin test.

There have been no cases of primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health, and I am sorry to say that a large proportion of infants are not vaccinated. When it is made so easy for them to obtain exemptions no other result is to be expected. The compulsory notification of chicken-pox was put into force last June by this Council for twelve months. There were no cases of rabies or anthrax in the district during 1919.

There has been no case of puerperal fever during the war, and only two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum during the same period. The sight has not been affected in either case of the latter disease.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and one Inspector of Nuisances, and the latter has only taken up his duties since August last (1919). Previous to that date the sanitary inspection was carried out by Mr. Reynolds, who was also Surveyor of Highways, &c. There is no Hospital yet available for infectious disease, but this want will, I hope, be made good in the coming year. Fortunately, this Council is able to send any small-pox cases which may arise to the Joint Small-pox Hospital for North Bucks, situated near Bletchley, which is kept up by this Council with others.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889 was adopted on November 23rd, 1889, and the Infectious

Disease (Prevention) Act 1890 was adopted on February 28th, 1891. Regulations were made on 17th November, 1906, and are put into force for the carrying out of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders for 1885 and 1899. By-laws are also in existence for the following :— New streets and buildings, slaughter-houses, and the laying of water connections.

As regards bacteriological work, swabs are sent for examination to the Clinical Research Association, London, and are paid for by this Council; also diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free. No applications have been received for anti-influenza vaccine. Examination of sputa for tubercular bacilli are undertaken by the County Medical Officer for Tuberculosis.

All the Urban and Rural Districts in North Bucks are supporting a Motor Ambulance scheme by which patients suffering from any disease who are in need of hospital treatment can be sent to hospital with despatch and comfort. Surgeon-Colonel Bull, of Stony Stratford, is the Director of this scheme, and a Motor Ambulance has been given by the Government.

HOUSING.

I.—(1) The number of houses in this district at the Census of 1911 was 2,084. The number of houses of rateable value up to £8 was 1,805, and over £8 and not exceeding £16, 226. No new houses have been erected during 1919, or are in course of erection, and only 3 working-class houses were erected from January 1st, 1915, to December 31st, 1918.

(2) The population at the Census of 1911 was 8,322, and the present population is estimated at 8,004 for birth-rate purposes. I anticipate a slight increase during the coming and succeeding years.

(3) (a) There is certainly a shortage of houses to the extent of 150, 111 of which are to meet the unsatisfied demand for house accommodation and 39 to replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and which cannot be made fit.

(b) The following is a detailed list of the several villages in the district which require houses and the numbers proposed to be erected to supply their wants :—

Estimate of Housing Needs.				Scheme of the Buckingham Rural District Council for the provision of new Houses under Sec. 1 Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919.		
Akeley ...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Beachampton ...	...	12	...	...	...	12
Charndon ...	...	12	...	...	...	12
Edgcott ...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Hillesden ...	...	8	...	No decision at present.		
Maids Moreton ...	...	24	...	...	...	24
Marsh Gibbon ...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Middle Claydon ...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Padbury ...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Preston Bissett ...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Steeple Claydon		20	...	...	...	20
Thornborough ...	...	12	...	...	...	12
Tingewick ...	...	16	...	...	...	16
Twyford ...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Water Stratford		4	...	No decision at present.		
<hr/>				<hr/>		
150				138		

- II.**—(1) There is not a great deal of overcrowding.
 (2) Shortage of houses.
 (3) The present building scheme will remedy it.
 (4) No cases dealt with.

III.—(1) (a) Fairly good on the whole; in some villages very good. (b) Want of damp course, deficient ventilation, spouting defective, and leaky thatch.

- (2) No action taken until accommodation is provided.
 (3) Difficulty in procuring labour and materials.
 (4) Water supply and closet accommodation fairly good. No trouble with disposal of refuse. Preliminary notices have been served in several cases, and these had the desired effect.

IV.—There are no unhealthy areas in this district.

V.—No by-laws in force for houses let in lodgings, or for tents, vans and sheds. Not required in this district.

VI.—No severe action with regard to insanitary houses has been taken during the war owing to the impossibility of the tenants getting other accommodation. The absence of a whole-time Inspector of Nuisances has also added to the difficulties of taking action.

I have the honour to remain,
 Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
 Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP L. BENSON, M.D., D.P.H. (CAMB.),
Medical Officer of Health.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD TABLE.

Statement required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the inspection of dwelling-houses under Section 17 (1) of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

	1919
Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Act	200
Number of such dwelling-houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	29
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which representations were made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders	5
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made by the local authority	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders, were made fit for human habitation... ..	Nil
Demolition Orders made	Nil
Number of houses demolished	Nil
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by local authority and costs recovered	Nil
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by local authority and costs not yet recovered	Nil
General Character of Defects found :	
(a) Drainage Defects	31
(b) Closet Accommodation, insufficient or defective	23
(c) Water Supply exposed to surface pollution	8
(d) Insufficient circulation of air	7
(e) Dampness	31
(f) Insufficient light	13
(g) Dirty by tenant's default	16
(h) Dirty by landlord's default	24
(i) Insufficient paving	3
(j) Deficient method of refuse disposal	10
(k) Internal structural defects	24
(l) Defective roofs, gutters and down pipes	26

Annual Report of the Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

BUCKINGHAM,

March, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Buckingham.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in submitting to you my first Annual Report upon the sanitary work carried out in your District during the year ended December 31st, 1920.

*Housing
Regulations.*

House-to-house Inspections have been made during the year in the Parishes of Maids Moreton and Preston Bissett. In each case where defects were found to exist the details of the defects were laid before your Council. Extensive improvements have been carried out to put the cottages into habitable condition and to meet your requirements, and it is gratifying to report that this has been done with the least possible amount of friction, as in no case was it found necessary during the year to serve any notice beyond the preliminary notice on the owner to get the improvements carried out. Details of the general character of the defects found and work done are given in the Medical Officer's report.

*Cowsheds
and Dairies.*

During the year four cowkeepers have been registered, making a total of 193 registered cowkeepers in your District. The Cowsheds and Dairies in your District have been visited as frequently as possible. In cases where the regulations in regard to cleanliness had not been observed, a verbal request in most cases had the desired result.

Notices to the number of 21 have been served with regard to defects and cleansing.

*Slaughter
Houses.*

The whole of the Slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected during the year. The necessary cleansing was in every instance carried out after making verbal request or serving preliminary notice on the occupier.

In no case was diseased meat exposed for sale.

*Infectious
Diseases.*

The few cases that occurred were isolated ones, and were treated in their own homes. On receiving the necessary information from your Medical Officer the

premises on which the disease occurred are inspected, disinfectants are supplied, and instructions given.

After a house has been infected with any notifiable infectious diseases, the rooms, bedding, and all the clothes which have been in contact with the infection are thoroughly disinfected.

*Factories,
Workshops, and
Bakehouses.*

Inspections have been periodically made of the Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses throughout the district. But few defects have been found, which were remedied by either verbal or written notices being given.

The bakehouses have been found clean and in good order generally, and limewashing has been well attended to.

*Petroleum
Acts and
Regulations.*

Four applications were made for licences for the storage of carbide of calcium and petroleum. No contravention of the Acts were discovered.

Canal Boats Act.

No inspections made, the Canal in your area being practically unnavigable.

New Buildings.

No new buildings have been erected during the year. Improvements have been made to existing ones.

*Sewerage and
Sewage Disposal*

The Sewers of the district have been maintained in good condition; no serious complaints were received of offensive emanations from them. New lengths of sewer have been laid in Preston Bissett and Thornborough, and inspection chambers built where found necessary for better cleansing. Sewers have been repaired at Charndon, Maids Moreton, Marsh Gibbon, Middle Claydon, and several other villages.

All sewer outfalls were kept under supervision, and tanks and filter beds were cleansed and recharged where necessary.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies of the District have been maintained. Leakages were discovered in the water mains at Calvert, Water Stratford, and Charndon. In each instance the leakage was immediately located, and the main repaired without wasting serious quantities of water.

Standpipes in the villages of Akeley, Calvert, Tingewick, and Steeple Claydon got out of order and were repaired.

The exceptional drought during the year caused the water supply in the village of Padbury to fail. For about two months the water failed to reach the standpipes at the top end of the village.

A summary of the number of inspections and work done will be found at the end of this report.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of your Council for their willing support and confidence, and the Officers for their kind assistance in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,



Your obedient Servant,

A. FALLOWS,

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.



Buckingham Rural District.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1919.

This Return does not include work done under the Housing Acts.

GENERAL.

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	113
Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances detected without complaint	...	...	...	...	35
Notices served (formal 6 (informal 40	...	...	...	...	40
Nuisances abated (a) by persons responsible	...	...	...	...	31
(b) by Council	...	...	...	...	—
Summonses taken out	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	—

HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Spouts cleaned and repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Pavements repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	—
Dirty Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Other House defects remedied	...	...	...	...	1

DRAINS, W.C.'s, &c.

Drains cleansed, repaired, or ventilated	...	...	...	...	7
New drains laid	...	...	...	...	—
W.C.'s constructed	...	...	...	...	—
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	—
W.C.'s supplied with water (formerly without)	...	...	...	...	—
Earth Closets, Privies, repaired	...	...	...	...	6

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses supplied with water (formerly without)	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of water analysed.....good .....bad	...	...	...	...	—
Water Certificates granted (Rural Districts)	...	...	...	...	—
Water Certificates deferred (Rural Districts)	...	...	...	...	—
Cisterns cleansed, repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Wells cleansed, repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	—

FOOD.

Seizures of unsound food (details separately)	...	...	...	...	—
Surrenders of unsound food	...	...	...	...	—

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	19
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	24
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	3
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	3

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	13
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	26
Number of defects found	...	...	...	..	4
Number of defects remedied		...	...	...	4

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of dairymen or purveyors of milk on register	...				192
Number of cowkeepers on register		...	...	...	—
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	65
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	15
Number of defects remedied		...	...	...	12

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	31
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	14
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	—
Number of defects remedied		...	...	...	—

VARIOUS.

Visits to infected houses	...	...	...	...	22
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	11
Other items (<i>e.g.</i> , common lodging houses, canal boats, &c.)					—

Canal not navigable.

